will ever get forgiveness for harping on rich soil for plants? We mean all right, and rich soil to us means common earth with enough sand in it to make it porous, and enough manure to store it with plant food for the plant's use. A fourth of manure is enough to do this. Our beginner reasons that if a fourth is good, more would be better, and the result is a fiery, strong soil that eats up the roots and makes the leaves spot and fall off and the flowers wither. Remember that all manures are concentrated food and need to be used in measured proportions. Another thing that beginners make mistakes about is that of using fresh manure. It is surprising how reckless well-informed people are in regard to this matter. I have heard farmers' daughters call manure in great cakes and chunks "rotted" manure. Better no fertilizer at all than such fiery stuff as this. It should be rotted until a touch pulverizes it and it falls apart a loose, black earth.

Stalk Borers.—There is no remedy for the stalk borers that tunnel through the stems of Asters and Dahlias unless they are taken in hand at an early stage. By the use of a fine wire the worm can be hooked and drawn out if it has only commenced its operations. When a stalk by its withering shows a stalk borer's presence the only thing that can be done is to cut out the stalk and burn it, thus killing the larva so that much of the race is cut off.

Scilla Maritima.—A bulb that never bloomed was thrown away in disgust. An experimenter then took it in hand. Thinking it a Crinum from the great size of the bulb the lady read up Mr. Pique's Amaryllis article. Reading there that Crinums "would enjoy sizzling on a red-hot grid-iron," she put the bulb in its pot on top of the heating stove, and forgot it! It stayed there a day before she thought of it. But it was not baked, no indeed, and in ten days a flower bud showed. Alas! it developed into a tall spiked thing with insignificant starry green-and-white flowers, not half so pretty as the long sweeping leaves which were several feet long and two inches wide. The lady has at least learned how to bring refractory bulbs to time. Her plan is the old Sea Onion (Scilla Maritima) and its beauty lies in its clear green bulb and its long leaves.. Some ladies have a fancy for looping up its leaves and tying them with knots of bright ribbon. Most of us can find better plants for a basket and save our ribbons for our children's hair, unless we are so unlucky as to have no children.

Clematis From Seed.—Do not try to grow the large-flowered Clematis from seed. Not one attempt in a hundred will succeed with the ordinary grower.

Brugmansia.—This is more often called Wedding Bells or Angel Trumpet. It is a royal plant when healthy and full of bloom. An average blossom by the tape-line is a foot long and over eight inches wide at the mouth of its flaring tubular flower, while the texture is as smooth as ivory. Its fluted, creamy blossoms will never be common, for the Brugmansia will not rough it. Keep in a cold or draughty room it chills, usually to its death. In a very warm atmosphere red spiders put in their deadly work upon it. A moderate temperature, but an even one, fits it best in winter. Give it rich soil, for it is a gross feeder, an abundance of water when growing fast, and a much more moderate allowance when at a standstill, Brugmansia likes considerable pot room, and when a plant that has been thrifty gets sickly, the first thing to see is whether the shrub is pot-bound or not. It does not bloom well unless it can have some sunshine. Someone asks if it can be wintered in a cellar. Yes, by gradually ripening it off in the fall, by giving less and less water. When the leaves have mostly fallen put the plant in a cellar where the temperature does not fall under 45 degrees, and leave it there unwatered until early spring. The Brugmansia must be of considerable size to winter in this manner.

[This plant will thrive in the open ground in Florida. It is best to bank up the stem a few inches in the fall, so that if the top is frozen, there will be some stem left to send up sprouts.—Ed.]

Queer Opinions About the Green Rose.—Not long since the statement was in the papers that there was no such a thing as a green Rose, that the reports of one were simply lies. That's all that the writer knew about it. It is not commonly offered by florists, because it has little value, but it can be purchased from a dozen American florists. Again, a reporter stated that "in Philadelphia no bouquet was considered complete without a border of the beautiful and delicate Green Rose, a lovely and curious flower that would soon be the rage everywhere." What an imagination that reporter had, or else peculiar taste Philadelphians have. The Green Rose is a great bloomer, but the flowers are scarcely larger than Fairy or Baby Roses, and are of a dull green that would not attract attention six feet away. We have a specimen that has not been out of bloom this summer. Everyone makes a fuss over it when it is once pointed out, because it is such an oddity, but we have the first visitor to ever spy out Miss Viridiflora for him or herself. Another party wants to know ir a Tea-Rose must be grafted on a Willow to get green flowers. No. Roses do not grow on Willows. The Chinese gave us the Green Rose, and there is no trouble in getting it or growing it. The trouble is that it has no beauty.

[We had this Rose several years ago and endorse all that Mrs. LaMance says of it.—Ed.]

The Balky Horse.

A real balky horse is one of the most provoking things that any one can have to try his temper. A contributor to the Rural New Yorker writes very reasonably and sensibly on the subject as follows:

I have had some experience with almost all kinds of horses, and a balky horse I find the most provoking I have ever had in my possession. Horses are so different in disposition that it takes a good horseman to understand just how to handle each animal. In my experience I find that the balky horse has been spoiled by a poor driver, or by some one who did not understand how to handle that kind of animal which is usually of a contrary nature. Like some men, they want their own way or no way at all. I find it best to study the disposition of the horse, and if I see that he is a naturally contrary animal I try all the kindness possible, and never lose my onw temper. A good, sound thrashing will do sometimes but with a naturally contrary horse I seldom use a whip, only to straighten him up, and then more in the stable than when he is hitched. When you want him to stand over tell him so with a firm "Get over;" not a yell, but so he will know what you mean, or to back up in stall . Use him firmly so he will know that you mean what you say, and do not say too much. I use a good blacksnake whip, because I can handle it the best. If I cannot make him do what I want him to, after several days' training, I take him on a good sod field, plenty of room; tie up his left front foot firmly with a good strap, so that the foot is up to the body, then I put a good strap on the right foot just above the hoof, and over his back; then I take a firm hold of the strap with right hand, and at the bit with left hand and I tell him to get up, and as he does so I pull up the foot. Down he goes on both knees; then is your time to stay by him. Don't let go; he will go down on his side if you stay by him long enough. Then get on his head quick and keep him there till he will lie quiet. Let him up, put him down again till you are sure he is under your control; then if you hitch him put no load behind him, and put him with a good, true horse so he will learn how to go, but do not use the whip if possible, and in time with good firm usage you have a good horse. I swapped for one several weeks ago that would work all right till it would come to a hard pull, then she would quit. I am getting her so I can haul 25 bushels of coal over these hills by severe use of the blacksnake whip, but it will take several months yet to get her so she will be a true puller. I only give them a short pull so they can start easy again, and when I tell them to start I mean that they should go, not with a jerk, but a good steady pull, and both together; hold your lines so they must start at the same time. The man who tries to break a balky horse would better break himself of losing his temper, and gather up all the horse sense that he can find in his topknot; then be determined to break the horse or break himself of his bad habits if it does not take him a year.

The Cement Floor.

The Southern Agriculturist recommends cement floors for cow stables. There is certainly much good sense in the argument advanced.

Of all the modern improvements in dairying, and especially in handling dairy cows, abong the first, if not the most important, may be named the cement stable floor.

We are all familiar with the looks, if not the discomforts, certainly we are with the bad smell of the dirt and wooden floors of the average stable, to be found all over the country. How it has been patched up and filled in until there is no further room for patching. Here and there are pools of water, wonderful breeding places for all kinds of microbes and bacilli.

The man who has the courage and enterprise to put in a cement floor is the one that good fortune has marked for her own. He is the kind of man fortune loves to smile upon, and generally does so. It is that kind of progressive spirit that always conquers the worst of bad fortune and leads on to sure success. Of course, it must be well done, or it had better not be done at all. Theremust be no dumping in and pounding down, but to be a success, every part of the job must be done decently and in order.

First you must lay off the floor by filling in until the top of the cement, where the cows stand, is not less than two feet above the surrounding ground, so as to furnish a good fall for drainage. The bottom of the stall must be filled, pounded down level and firm, say three or more inches deep. If you are going to work before winter sets in, you must use Portland cement, for that is the only kind that will set well in cold or damp weather. Common cement should be used in summer, when it will have ample time to dry out, but then it must be shaded so the sun will not get in on it.

You can work it yourself with one man to help. First mix the cement and sharp, clear sand, one of cement to three of sand, or, if Portland, five of sand. Mix thoroughly while dry. Then, taking part at a time, use plenty of water, and mix it only is fast as you lay it, making the bed of 5 to 1 two inches deep, and the top of 2 to 1 one inch deep. Have both mixtures ready so as to lay the floor that you are working on complete, so that none will have time to dry out before it is finished. Laying wet upon dry makes a bad joint or connection. There should be a fall of two inches to the drop gutter. Use some kind of bedding.

Sharpes, Fla., Jan. 25, 1905.

Mr. E. O. Painter,

Dear Sir:

My fruit has never kept as well on the trees or as well en route to market. Trees bear well; scale is less than for years; not 15 boxes of russets in 500. No spraying done either. Oranges large 150 and 126.

Sincerely yours,

Geo. W. Holmes.